

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2011

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0582

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BGEN, AG

SUBJ: AUTOMOTIVE PROJECT

REF: STATE 047459

1. GM REP MET WITH EMBASSY FEBRUARY 19 AND SAID GM WAS DEFINITELY INTERESTED IN ALGERIAN AUTOMOTIVE PROJECT. GM HAD SUBMITTED BID WHICH WAS CONSIDERED INTERESTING BUT NOT COMPLETE. PREPARATION OF COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS FOR 100,000 UNIT A YEAR AUTOMOTIVE FACILITY IS MAJOR PROJECT, AND GM ASKED FOR 12 EXTRA WEEKS AND PAYMENT FOR COST OF PREPARATION. OUSSAR OF MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND ENERGY INDICATED APPROVAL TO GM, BUT SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO CONFIRM WITH MINISTER. MINISTRY WOULD CABLE FINAL APPROVAL TO GM. EMBASSY HAS NO FURTHER INFORMATION AND WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION FROM GM OF ALGERIAN POSITION.

2. EMBASSY KEEPS HEARING THAT FRENCH HAVE AUTOMOTIVE PROJECT AND THIS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT TIME OF PRESIDENTGISCARD VISIT TO ALGIERS, APRIL 7. ALGERIAN RESPONSE TO GM'S REQUEST FOR 12 WEEK DELAY WOULD BE INDICATIVE OF VAILIDITY OF ABOVE RUMOR. IN ANY CASE ISSUE IS TOUCH FOR ALGERIANS, CONSULTING FIRMS ADVISING ALGERIANS ON PROJECT, AND GM.

3. GM REP EXPLAINED HIS COMPANY'S INTEREST ON BASIS THAT
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GM'S SPANISH AND RUSSIAN VEHICLE PROJECTS HAVE PROBABLY

FALLEN THROUGH, SO GM HAS EXTRA CAPACITY TO WORK ON
ALGERIAN AUTOMOTIVE PROJECT.

4. GM REP WENT ON TO SAY THAT HIS COMPANY ALSO
INTERESTED IN ALGERIAN TRUCK FACILITY AND UTILITY VEHICLE
FACILITY. THESE FACILITIES, TO BUILD 25,000 TRUCKS, 60,000
ENGINES AND UTILITY VEHICLES, WOULD COST IN AREA OF
1.5 BILLION DOLLARS.PARKER

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NNN

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